

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of compensating an operator of an external defibrillator for expenses incurred as a result of ~~using~~ use of the defibrillator for the benefit of another party to whom the operator has no duty to provide use of the defibrillator, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving a pre-determined monetary amount as a premium from the operator;

maintaining a contractual relationship with the operator for a period of time in exchange for the pre-determined monetary amount, the contractual relationship including a requirement to reimburse the operator for at least a portion of the expenses incurred by the operator as a result of the defibrillator being used for the benefit of ~~a patient to whom the operator has no duty to provide use of the defibrillator~~ the other party;

determining, with a computing system, that the external defibrillator was used for the benefit of the other party during the period of time; and

in response to the determination, reimbursing the operator, in accordance with the contractual relationship and with the computing system, for the at least a portion of the expenses incurred by the operator as a result of the defibrillator being used for the benefit of the patient to whom the operator has no duty to provide use of the defibrillator other party.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the maintaining step comprises maintaining contractual relationships with a plurality of operators.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 2 further comprising ~~the step of~~ allocating the expenses across the plurality of operators.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 wherein ~~the receiving step is executed~~ receiving the pre-determined monetary amount comprises receiving the pre-determined monetary amount from the operator upon purchase of the defibrillator by the operator.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 4 wherein ~~the receiving step is executed~~ receiving the pre-determined monetary amount comprises receiving the pre-determined monetary amount at a regular interval corresponding to the period of time.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 5 wherein the regular interval further corresponds to a period of contract for maintenance of the defibrillator.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 5 wherein the period of time is annually.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 5 wherein the period of time is monthly.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 4 wherein ~~the receiving step is executed~~ receiving the pre-determined monetary amount comprises receiving the pre-determined monetary amount in conjunction with receipt of a lease payment for the defibrillator.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~the step of~~ requesting compensation for the reimbursement ~~provided in the re-imbursing step~~ from the other party.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the period of time continues in perpetuity.

Claims 12 and 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 12 further comprising ~~the step of seeking~~ compensation for the reimbursement from an insurance carrier associated with the other party.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A computing system ~~for compensating an owner of an external defibrillator for expenses incurred as a result of using the external defibrillator on another person, the system~~ comprising:

means for receiving a pre-determined monetary amount as a premium from ~~the~~ an owner of an external defibrillator;

means for maintaining a contractual relationship with the owner for a period of time in exchange for the pre-determined monetary amount, the contractual relationship including a requirement to compensate the owner for at least a portion of expenses incurred by the owner as a result of the external defibrillator being used;

means for determining that the external defibrillator was used to at least one of monitor or treat another party during the period of time; and

means for compensating the owner, in response to the determination by the means for determining and in accordance with the contractual relationship, for the expenses incurred as a result of using the use of the defibrillator on to at least one of monitor or treat the other party ~~person if the device is used during the period of time on a patient to whom the owner has no duty to provide use of the external defibrillator.~~

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A data processing system ~~for insuring against costs associated with external defibrillator use, the method~~ comprising:

first computing means for receiving premium payments from each of a plurality of operators of a respective one or more of a plurality of external defibrillators;

~~first~~ second computing means for maintaining contractual relationships with a the plurality of external defibrillator operators for a period of time in exchange for the premium payments, each contractual relationship comprising a ~~period of time~~ requirement to reimburse the respective operator for at least a portion of costs incurred by the operator as a result of one of the defibrillators being used;

~~second computing means for receiving premium payments from each of the external defibrillator operators;~~

third computing means for determining that the one of the external defibrillators was used to at least one of monitor or treat another party during the period of time; and

~~third~~ fourth computing means for providing reimbursement to one of the plurality of external defibrillator operators, in response to the determination by the third computing means and in accordance with the contractual relationship, for the at least a portion of the costs associated with the use of the external defibrillator use if a defibrillator event occurs during the period of time on a patient to whom the operator has no duty to provide use of an external defibrillator incurred by the operator.

Claim 17 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the expenses incurred as a result of the external defibrillator being used to benefit the other party include at least one of restoring the external defibrillator, refurbishing the external defibrillator, or replacing the external defibrillator with a different external defibrillator.